

REMARKS

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Applicants appreciate the Examiners recognition of the patentability of the claimed invention and indication the application is in condition for allowance except for correction/clarification of various formal matters.

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Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview held on November 10, 2004 between the Examiner, Richard Riley and Applicants representative Gerald Baracka. During the interview, the participants discussed the various objections to the specification and claims set forth in the Official Action, clarified issues and discussed amendments proposed by Applicants to correct the informalities.

During the interview, explanation was provided to clear up the Examiner's confusion regarding Applicant's description of curved blocking means 51 and 52. The Examiner in paragraphs 1(A) (1) and 3(A) of the office action indicated the recitation that the blocking means "extends upwardly from said channel at least 27.5 degrees above the horizontal plane" is unclear. While the Examiner has correctly observed that the blocking means extends upwardly from wheel-receiving channel 40 and is an arcuate extension thereof, the wheel-receiving channel is not the point of reference used to describe the "height" of the blocking means.

Since the blocking means are designed to engage and bear against the foremost and rearmost wheels of the inline skate, the blocking means are concavely curved and generally conform to the curvature (diameter) of the skate wheels. Furthermore, in order to provide secure attachment, the blocking mean must extend above the axis of the skate wheel. In other words, the blocking means must to some extent "wrap around" the wheels which they engage. This is apparent from Figure 2B which illustrates the skate shoe in expanded position with the foremost and rearmost skate wheels shown in ghost outline. A line representing the horizontal plane (viewed from the side) drawn through the axes of the two skate wheels shown is also illustrated in Figure 2B. As was pointed out to the Examiner during the interview, it is this plane, i.e., the horizontal plane of the axes of the skate wheels, and not wheel-receiving channel 40 which is the reference point for